

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS20386C3

The purpose of this legislation is to establish Governor's big game auction tags and provide authority to the Fish and Game Commission to designate limited big game tags for auction similar to existing statutorily authorized bighorn sheep and wolf auction tags. The tags would be taken from the nonresident tag pool thereby not diminishing resident hunting opportunity. The legislation authorizes the Commission to designate up to three elk, deer and antelope tags respectively and only one moose, wild sheep and one mountain goat tag per year. Funds received from auction would be directed to the fish and game department for use toward hunter access, big game management projects, habitat management projects and research and planning activities to facilitate habitat solutions.

FISCAL NOTE

There is no fiscal impact to the state general fund but there will be a positive fiscal impact to the Fish and Game department budget for dedicated uses depending upon the auction price for each tag in a given year. An estimate is up to \$200,000 positive revenue per year.

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